CONSTITUTION

OF THE

NEW ENGLAND

PROTECTIVE UNION,

AND

By-Laws of Worcester Division, No. 12,

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Instituted December 12, 1846.

WORCESTER:
PRINTED BY HENRY J. HOWLAND,
199 Main Street.

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PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, the producing classes receive so small an equivalent for their excessive toil, that in most cases no surplus remains after the purchase of the necessaries of life; and whereas, they, with their small means are subjected to a disadvantage in making their purchases alone, which a union of their little capital with that of their brother laborers would overcome, and whereas it is desirable to create a feeling of brotherhood among the working classes, and to afford opportunities for mutual consultation as to their true interests; therefore, in order to establish a just and economical method for the production, distribution and consumption of the fruits of Human Industry; to relieve society of the burden of sustaining useless functionaries in the several departments of mercantile, civil and social life; to establish such a system of exchange as shall protect and ennoble, rather than spoliate and degrade labor; to associate Producers into an organization for their mutual benefit and improvement, and *to secure to each the strength of all*, we, the representatives of the several Divisions of the New England Protective Union now organized, do adopt and establish the following articles of agreement.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

Name and Purpose.

SECTION 1. This institution shall be called the NEW ENGLAND PROTECTIVE UNION.

SEC. 2. Its purpose shall be the organization of Industry and Commerce on a system of Equitable Exchange between the producer and consumer, and to aid and promote the general interests of the producing classes.

ARTICLE II.

How Constituted.

SECTION 1. The New England Protective Union shall be constituted of the various Divisions represented in the formation and adoption of this Constitution, and of such others as may be hereafter organized, and duly admitted as hereinafter prescribed.

SEC. 2. There shall be a Central Division of the Union, which shall be composed of delegates from the Sub Divisions, regularly chosen as required by this Constitution.

ARTICLE III.

Central Division's Powers Defined.

SECTION 1. The Central Division shall be the Executive Division of the New England P. U., and shall have jurisdiction over all Divisions of the said Union, so far as to insure a strict conformity to the principles of the foregoing Preamble and this Constitution. It shall have the power to choose its own officers, to adjudicate

all Constitutional questions, and subjects of difference which may arise between the several Sub Divisions; it shall have the sole right and power to organize new Divisions, and to designate their No.; it shall have the supervision of the general exchange, with power to establish offices and depots of exchange and trade in such places as in its judgment shall best subserve the objects of the Union. It shall have power to determine the means of defraying its legitimate expenses, and to do all such other acts as the success of the Union may require:

SEC. 2. The members of the Central Division shall be delegates, elected from the several Sub Divisions of the Union. A Division numbering less than fifty members shall be entitled to one delegate; fifty and less than one hundred members, two delegates; one hundred members, or more, three delegates, who shall present credentials of their election, signed by the President and Secretary of the Sub Division which they represent; also, two Divisions contiguous to each other, may be represented in the meetings of the Central Division by one delegate, who may cast two votes on all questions that come up for action —provided he has the requisite credentials.

SEC. 3. The Central Division shall hold an Annual Session, the *first* Wednesday in October, and a Semi-annual Session, to be holden the *first* Wednesday in April of each year; and may hold Special Sessions at the call of the President; during either of which it shall adjourn from time to time until the business of the Session shall be disposed of. All Sessions shall be held in the city of Boston, unless otherwise ordered by the Division.

SEC. 4. *Officers.*—The officers of the Central Division shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by ballot at each annual session.

SEC. 5. *Duty of Officers.*—The President shall pre-

side at the meetings of the Central Division; he shall preserve order; all questions of order, however shall be subject to appeal from his decision to the Division, when a majority of votes shall decide the point; he shall give the casting vote in all cases where the Division is equally divided; he shall order special sessions of the Division, when the good of the Union may require it, or upon receiving a written request to do so from five delegates. His approval must be endorsed upon bills before being paid by the Treasurer.

SEC. 6. The Vice President shall support the President in presiding, and in his absence shall take the chair. In the event of the resignation, death, or removal from office of the President, he shall become ex-officio President until the next regular Session thereafter.

SEC. 7. The Secretary shall make a just and true record of the proceedings at each meeting of the Central Division, and transmit semi-annually a summary of its doings, to each Division of the Union. In case the President and Vice President are absent, he shall call the Division to order, when a President pro tem. shall be elected. The Secretary shall receive all communications addressed to the Central Division, and attend to its general correspondence, and shall impart such information, from time to time, under the direction of the Division, as may be deemed useful; he shall file all papers of business or correspondence which may be of future use. The Secretary, upon receiving an application to organize a Division, shall call together the elective officers, who shall constitute a board to decide upon the same. If the Request is granted, the Secretary shall appoint some delegate to the Central Division to superintend the organization of the new Division, and to designate to them their No. The delegate shall, as soon as possible after the organization, report to the Secretary his doings, with the names of officers elect-

ed. The new Division, so organized, shall defray the necessary expenses of the delegate.

SEC. 8. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of the money of the Central Division, and pay out the same under its direction—all bills to be approved by the President. He shall keep his accounts in a fair and legible manner, and report the same to the Division at its annual session.

SEC. 9. The Central Division shall at each annual session, elect the following standing committees: *Committee on Returns* and *Committee on Trade.*

SEC. 10. The Committee on Returns shall consist of three members, whose duty at each meeting will be to examine and report to the Division without delay, on the number of members enrolled in each Division, number of delegates each is entitled to, and on the credentials of each delegate.

SEC. 11. The Committee on Trade shall consist of nine members, with such others as the Division shall add from time to time, whose duty shall be to make diligent inquiry as to the existing mode of trade, to make themselves conversant with its several branches, and when requested by any Sub Division or directed by the Central Division, impart information as to the best mode of making good and just purchases; and to act as agents in the purchase of goods for Sub Divisions, when requested by them so to do; said Sub Divisions, so ordering, shall defray the necessary expenses incurred by the Committee while acting as their agents. The Committee shall establish an office in Boston, where orders from Sub Divisions shall be sent and the mercantile business of the Union transacted; they shall also recommend a faithful and competent person to act as agent for Sub Divisions in making purchases, whose compensation and expense of office shall be defrayed by charging such a rate of commission on all purchases or exchanges as shall be from time to time by them established.

Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of the agent to transact the business of purchase and exchange of merchandise committed to him by the Sub Divisions. He shall keep an Order Book, in which all orders duly received from Sub Divisions shall be entered. He shall not fulfil any order for purchase not accompanied by the money therefor, or an equivalent for the same.—He shall keep an accurate account of all orders fulfilled. His books and accounts shall be open at all times to the inspection of the Committee, and he shall furnish the Committee with a semi-annual account of the business transacted, in season to be laid before the Annual and Semi-annual session of the Central Division.

Sec. 13. All officers, agents or other persons in the employ of the Central Division, shall deliver up all papers, accounts, books, documents, funds, or other property by them held, to their successors in office.

Sec. 14. The business of the New England Protective Union shall be conducted upon the cash principle. No credit shall in any case be given. And furthermore, no Division shall engage in, encourage, or countenance, the traffic in intoxicating drinks.

Sec. 15. The Central Division may adopt or amend, at any regular session, such By-Laws and Rules of Order for the governing thereof, as two-thirds of the delegates present shall approve, provided such laws or rules shall not in any-wise contravene this Constitution, or violate the principles of the Association.

Article IV.

Sub Divisions. How Formed.

When fifteen or more persons of good moral character, who do not use or vend intoxicating drinks for any other than mechanical, medicinal, or communion purposes, and who are not members of any Division already formed, are desirous of availing themselves of the advantages of this

Union, and shall combine to form a Division, they shall notify the Secretary of the Central Division of their desire to be organized and admitted into the Union, when proceedings will be had according to Art. 3, Sec. 7.

Applications to be organized and admitted as Sub Divisions into the New England Protective Union, must be accompanied by *one dollar,* to defray the expense attendant on such applications.

Any Sub Division shall have the right to protest against granting an application for another Division, when they apprehend that such application, if granted, would be injurious to their Division; and such protest shall be duly considered by the Government, who shall have full power to decide the case, and to grant, or to refuse to grant, such application, according to their best judgment, and the decision of the Government shall be final in such cases.

Article V.

Duties of Sub Divisions.

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of Sub Divisions to elect delegates to the Central Division, as specified in Art. 3, Sec. 2. To report Annually to the Central Division the number of their members, the amount of their capital stock, and any change which may have been made in their officers.

Sec. 2. In order to accomplish one of the main designs of the Union,—the largest possible combination of funds for trade,—it shall be the duty of each Division, when practicable, to make their purchases through the agency recommended by the Committee on Trade.

Sec. 3. The officers of Sub Divisions shall be a President, Vice President, Recording and Financial Secretaries, Treasurer, and a Board of three or more Directors. The duties of these officers shall be such as usually appertain to their respective offices, and such as each Division may decide upon. In addition, a Division may appoint

such other officers or Committees as their business rende necessary.

SEC. 4. Sub Divisions of the Union may make su By-Laws and Regulations for their own government, a the transaction of their own business, as may be most agre able to themselves, provided that such By-Laws and re ulations do not conflict with the spirit of this Constitutio

ARTICLE VI.

Alterations of the Constitution.

When any Division wishes an alteration or amendme made to the Constitution, it will notify the Central Di sion, specifying the alterations desired. The C. D. sha communicate the notice to each of its members, th through them the will of all the Divisions may be obtain The C. D. shall have full power to make such alterati as is desired, by a vote of two-thirds of all the delega present as its meeting. The Secretary of the C. D. sh notify each Division of the decision, which shall be bi ing upon the whole Union.

BY-LAWS OF DIVISION NO. 12.

ARTICLE 1.

Officers.

SEC. 1. The Officers of this Division, shall consis a President, Vice President, Recording, Financial, a Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of th or more Directors; also a Financial Committee of thr and a Committee of three, who shall have the supervis of the Meat Market; they, together, shall constitute government of this Division.

SEC. 2. *Duties of Officers.*—It shall be the duty the President to preserve order, state and put all qu tions with impartiality that may come before him, to

cide upon all questions of order, subject however, to an appeal of the meeting, when his decision may be reversed by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

He shall call a special meeting of the Division, upon the written request of at least fifteen of the members, the object of which shall be set forth therein, and shall appoint a Committee of investigation, upon each application for admission.

SEC. 3. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside in his place.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary, to be present at all regular meetings of the Division and Government; he shall keep a faithful record of each meeting, which record shall be open to the investigation of the Division when desired. In the absence of the President and Vice President, he shall call the meeting to order, and the Division shall make choice of a presiding officer for the meeting. Furthermore, he shall notify the members of their election to office, and call meetings of the Division and Government, as the Division and President may direct.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary, to register each member's name, occupation, and place of residence, to introduce all new members to the presiding officer, to collect all money due the Division, and not hold it longer than one week at a time, but pay it to the Treasurer, and take a receipt for the same, and report quarterly.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary, to receive and answer all communications, under the instruction of the Division, unless in the opinion of the President an answer may be desired, before the convening of the Division; to transmit to the Central Division annually, a correct list of the officers elect, likewise file all correspondence which may be for its future use.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer, to re-

ceive all the funds of the Division, and to give a receipt for the same, to pay all bills of Merchandise, and incidental expenses of the Division, that may be approved of by the Board of Directors, to keep an accurate record of all money, received and paid out, and report quarterly, and for the faithful performance of his trust, he shall give such bonds, as the Division may approve of.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors, to conduct the mercantile affairs of the Division subject to the instruction and inspection of the Division, also make a report once a quarter, and a summary report once a year.

SEC. 9. It shall be the duty of the Committee on meat, to employ an agent for the sale of the same, and to have in charge the general interest of the Market, to report quarterly, and a summary once a year.

SEC. 10. It shall be the duty of the Financial Committee, to audit the books of the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Meat Committee and Board of Directors; also report to the Division quarterly, such measures as they may deem important to improve the finances.

SEC. 11. Should the President, Vice President, Recording or Financial Secretary, neglect to attend three regular meetings of the Division in succession, or any other officer neglect to attend to his duty, his office shall be declared vacant, unless excused by the Division.

SEC. 12. All Officers, Agents, or other persons in the employ of this Division, shall deliver up all papers, accounts, books, documents, funds or other property in them held (belonging to this Division) to their successors in office.

SEC. 13. All officers of this Division shall be elected annually; the Board of Directors, the last meeting in June; the President, Vice President, Recording, Financial and Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurer, Finance Committee and Meat Committee, the last meeting in Se

tember, and shall hold their office until others are elected in their place.

Article 2.

Eligibility to Membership.

Sec. 1. When any person of good moral character, who does not use or vend intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and who is not a member of any other Division, shall signify a wish to join this Division, the candidate's name, occupation, and place of residence, shall be given in writing, with two good respectable references, which shall be referred to an investigating Committee of three, to be appointed by the presiding officer, and if found worthy of membership, they shall report at the following session; the candidate shall then be balloted for, and upon receiving two-thirds of all the votes, paying an admission fee, as specified in the following Sections, signing the Constitution and By-Laws. he shall receive a certificate of Membership signed by the President and Financial Secretary, which shall guarantee to him all the rights and privileges of membership; said certificate is not transferable.

Sec. 2. The admission fee to this Division, shall be thirteen dollars; three of which shall be considered as funds of the Division, and ten dollars as belonging to the reading fund of its store. One dollar shall be paid when the person is proposed, and the balance when admitted; and should the candidate be rejected, the money to be refunded; but if elected, and said candidate neglect to appear for one month and sign the Constitution and By-laws, then the money to be forfeited for the use of the Division, unless caused by sickness, or absence from the State.

Sec. 3. Members shall receive negotiable certificates for ten dollars of the admission fee, when paid in cash, payable seven days after notice. Said certificate shall be signed by the President and Financial Secretary, and countersigned by the Board of Directors.

SEC. 4. If the Board of Directors are satisfied that the person is unable for the time being, to pay all the admission fee in cash, they may in their discretion, allow him to sign the Constitution and By-Laws, by paying at least three dollars in cash, and the balance in a promissory note, payable to the Financial Secretary, with interest quarterly, said note to be paid in four quarterly instalments, on the first of January, April, July and October.

SEC. 5. Any member wishing to withdraw from this Division, may do so, by giving the Treasurer seven days notice, after which he shall receive a certificate of clearance, signed by the President and Financial Secretary.

ARTICLE 3.

SEC. 1. The percentage charged by this Division shall be regulated by the Board of Directors, and graduated as not to exceed the expenses of conducting the business of the same.

SEC. 2. No credit shall be given to any person by this Division.

ARTICLE 4.

This Division shall hold its meetings on each Saturday evening, at 7 o'clock, from October 1st to April 1st, from April 1st to October 1st, at 8 o'clock.

ARTICLE 5.

Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE 6.

All Committees appointed for special purposes, shall report their doings in writing, to the Division, signed by a majority, and no person shall be appointed chairman of any Committee, unless he be present at the time of his appointment.

ARTICLE 7.

If any member in his dealings with this Division, shall practice any acts tending to impair its interest or sh

nowingly be guilty of any violation of the Constitution
id By-Laws, he shall be notified by the Board of Di-
ectors to refrain from such acts; but if he neglect to
ey the injunction, he shall forfeit his membership and
s right and title to the funds of this Division.

ARTICLE 8.

These By-Laws shall not be repealed or altered unless
proposal be submitted in writing, specifying the altera-
tion wished for, two weeks previous to the discussion,
hen if two thirds of the members present vote in the
firmative, they shall be repealed or altered.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. After the Division is called to order, it shall be the
ty of the Presiding Officer to call
2nd. Reading the records of the last meeting.
3d. Are there any persons to be proposed for ad-
ssion.
4th. Reports of Committees.
5th. Balloting for candidates.
6th. Unfinished business.
7th. New business.
8th. Has any one anything to offer for the benefit of
Division.
9th. No question shall be entertained unless upon
tion of one member and seconded by another member;
shall the question be discussed until stated by the
sident, who before putting any question to vote, shall
" is the Division ready for the question?" and when
uestion is thus before the Division, it may be discussed
it is debatable; and when a motion is thus before the
ision, no motion shall be received, except to lay the
tion under consideration on the table, or a call for the
vious question, to postpone or refer, or to amend, which
shall have precedence in the order in which they are

arranged; the second of which shall be decided with
debate.

10th. No person shall speak more than twice, on
same question, at the same meeting, without the cons
of the Division, unless to explain or correct a misund
standing.

11th. When a blank is to be filled, the sense of
Division shall first be taken upon the highest sum or nu
ber, and longest time proposed.

12th. Any member may call for the division o
question when the sense will admit of it.

13th. The yeas and nays shall be ordered by
President on the call of any member, if duly second

14th. After any question except one of indefi
postponement has been decided, any member who vo
in the majority may at the same or next meeting, mov
re-consideration thereof, but no discussion of the m
question shall be allowed, unless re-considered.

15th. On the call of two members for the previ
question, the President shall put it in this form, "S
the main question now be put?" when, if a majority v
in the affirmative, it shall preclude all further debate,
all amendment, until it is decided.

16th. When a member intends to speak on a quest
he shall rise in his place and address the chair, and
fine himself to the question; when more than one m
ber rises to speak at the same time, the President s
decide which is entitled to the floor.

17th. Should a member be called to order w
speaking, (which may be done by the President or
member) the debate shall be suspended until the poin
order be determined, when he may use these words
no other; Mr. President, I appeal from the decision
the chair to the Division; when the Vice President
rise and say, will the Division sustain the decision of
chair? when the Division shall vote without debat
remark upon the question.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Some six years have elapsed since the founders of the New England P tective Union gave their signatures to a Constitution which they believ calculated to work out a better and truer commercial system. Their min were strongly imbued with the necessity and practicability of diminishi the profits of Exchanges, if not avoiding them altogether. They believe through the workings of their system, the distant farmer would be enabl to exchange the products of his own labor with the mechanic and manuf turer—insuring to each a sure and economical market.

This Division was instituted Dec. 12, 1846, and has been in active operati since that time. It belongs to a Union which numbers upwards of three hu dred Sub-Divisions whose mercantile transactions during the past y amount to upwards of Two Millions of Dollars—allowing that the cost of charge upon this sum is TEN PER CENT. less (and this is a low estimate) th it would have been through the usual channels, and we find the producers New England, have actually saved to themselves and families through t Union system of commerce upwards of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLA not including the reduction of profits which have taken place by the inf ence of Union stores upon the "old line" merchants in their vicinity. T amount is so much positively gained to the labor of the country, and shou incite us to renewed efforts to develope and perfect an institution whic destined to materially improve the social condition of the people.

Our object is not to destroy Commerce, for it has many virtues; but make it more just, humane, and impartial—to get it in a way of "tipping its cart" a little otherwise at the door of the honest laborer, and not so often the door of the speculator—to cause it to leave a larger loaf of bread wh there are two mouths to feed, than where there is but one—to keep it fr longer following the example of the dishonest miller, who kept the grist returned the toll—in other words, we desire to make it a true and econo cal system of exchange between the producer and consumer, which shall justice to every honest head, hand and heart, by distributing rewards acco ing to "value received," without shaving our notes or shortening weights.

DIVISION No. 12

may still be found at their old stand,

51 Main Street, Worcester,

where they can accommodate all with a choice selection of FAMILY G CERIES, which we buy and sell for cash.

No credit is allowed by this Division and the per centage charged on cost of goods is only sufficient to pay the current expenses of the store (th being no bad debts) consequently are able to sell at the lowest prices, e one paying for their goods ONLY.

WE HAVE A

Meat Department, located on Thomas Street,

which is of great advantage to the members, and is well sustained by public.

This is worthy the attention of every one who is willing to accord

JUSTICE TO LABOR.

Worcester, March, 1852.